

REMARKS

Claims 17-20 and 24-28 are currently pending. Claim 21 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 20 and 28 have been amended. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. The Examiner's Office Action dated January 30, 2004 has been received and the contents carefully noted.

Applicants note with appreciation the indicated allowance of claims 17-19 and 24-26. The reasons for allowance stated by the Examiner include, for example, the recitation in claim 17 that an entire front surface of the silicon carbide single crystal substrate faces the source material to grow the silicon carbide single crystal.

The Examiner rejected claims 20, 21, and 27 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Vodakov et al. (US Patent No. 6,508,880). This rejection is now moot with respect to claim 21, as claim 21 has been canceled. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 20 and 27.

Claim 20 as amended, is allowable at least for the reason that claim 20 now recites a combination of features, including for example, that an entire front surface of the silicon carbide single crystal substrate faces the source material to grow the silicon carbide single crystal. The Examiner indicated that, for example, claims 17-19 were allowed due to recitation of this feature. Therefore, as claim 20 has been amended to include subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20, as well as claim 27, which depends from claim 20, is allowable.

Although the above remarks as well as the noted amendments to claim 20 are in response to a Final Rejection, the amendments to claim 20 do not raise new issues, as Applicants have merely incorporated into claim 20 subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claim 28 in independent form by incorporating the features of canceled claim 21. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 28 is now allowable.

In view of the above remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Although no additional fees are believed to be due, permission is hereby given to charge any unforeseen fees to deposit account 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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